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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,380	09/05/2003	Scott Roger Finn	138856-1	8527
6147 7590 07/11/2007 GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			EXAMINER THOMPSON, CAMIE S	
			ART UNIT 1774	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/656,380		FINN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Camie S. Thompson		1774	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Election filed April 25, 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/5/03; 3/8/05.</u>   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of Group I, drawn to claims 1-17 is acknowledged. Claims 18-22 are withdrawn from prosecution at this time.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0526057.

The European reference discloses a composite blade that comprises a plurality of first thin successive layers of a first composite material. Additionally, the reference discloses a joining material for joining the first thin layers to each other. It is disclosed in column 3 of the reference that graphite fibers are used as the joining material. Reference claim 1 discloses that the first layers are stacked in a predetermined configuration for positioning the weakest shear plane towards the blade surface. Figure 2 of the European reference shows that the composite strip is embedded within an interior of the fan blade. Also, the figure shows that the length of each composite strip decrease as position from outside surface increases. The composite strips in the reference are contiguously layered from a first outside surface of the fan blade towards the interior of the fan blade.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 7 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0526057 in view of GB 1324898.

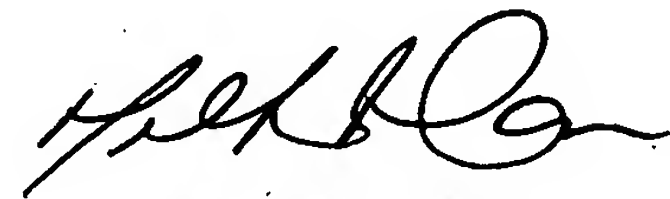
The European reference discloses a composite blade that comprises a plurality of first thin successive layers of a first composite material. Additionally, the reference discloses a joining material for joining the first thin layers to each other. It is disclosed in column 3 of the reference that graphite fibers are used as the joining material. Reference claim 1 discloses that the first layers are stacked in a predetermined configuration for positioning the weakest shear plane towards the blade surface. Figure 2 of the European reference shows that the composite strip is embedded within an interior of the fan blade. Also, the figure shows that the length of each composite strip decrease as position from outside surface increases. The composite strips in the reference are contiguously layered from a first outside surface of the fan blade towards the interior of the fan blade. The European reference does not provide for the orientation of the fibers. The Great Britain patent discloses graphite fiber reinforced laminates that are suited for use in turbine engines and have high elongation. The Great Britain patent discloses that the position of the graphite fibers in the graphite fiber reinforced structures affect impact resistance (see column 2-3 and table 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a composite strip used for joining the first thin layers of the European reference

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have a modulus from about 13,790 MPa to about 96,530 and to have the fibers oriented in varying directions in order to have a fan blade that can be subjected to higher internal loads.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Camie S. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena L Dye, can be reached at (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the Group is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MILTON I. CANO  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER